

10 October 1969

## SITUATION INFORMATION REPORT (SPECIAL)

15 October 1969 Activities

Senator Hugh Scott of Pennsylvania has suggested that the "quiet people" who support the administration's war policy show their support on the 15th of October by burning their auto headlights. Because of the massive backing, however, of the objectives of the Vietnam Moratorium Committee (VMC), it is highly doubtful that many headlights will be seen burning until after dark.

Next Wednesday's national peace demonstration is shaping up to be the most widely supported in American history. Although campus initiated, the October 15 demonstration has gathered aid and active assistance in many quarters of American life. Prominent businessmen have pledged they will picket Wall Street; John Cardinal Dearden of Detroit has declared the 15th as a day of prayer and fasting in the archdiocese; well over 1,000 Rabbis, nationwide, will be in the streets; scientists at Bell Laboratories in New Jersey as well as doctors at the National Institute of Health will observe the Moratorium. High-ranking Government officials (Senators, Representatives, governors, and mayors) of both parties will speak publicly and otherwise lend their prestige to the anti-war protest. Teachers' unions from coast to coast (including Washington, D. C., and Montgomery County) have voted to support the day of demonstration. The VMC has estimated that over one million Americans throughout the country will actively advance the moratorium cause. It is believed from press coverage nationally, however, indicating a clear snowballing effect, and general broad-based sympathy among the moderate forces in our society that the one million estimate is a most considerable underestimation. The actual number will probably be closer to three million participants and many millions more inactively endorsing what the VMC calls the "new politics."

The Moratorium coordinator, Sam Brown, age 26, is a former McCarthyite. Brown was born in Iowa and at one time was a Harvard divinity student. The idea for next Wednesday's protest was born in Brown's mind last spring, and in mid-June he, along with Dave Hawk of the National Student Association, opened a headquarters office in Washington (1029 Vermont Avenue, N. W.). Currently the D. C. office receives 1,500 pieces of mail daily and about \$1,000 in donations. In June the Washington operation consisted of a small office, and now they occupy an entire office building floor and employ (mostly volunteer) 31 full-time headquarters workers. The organization also boasts 7,500 field workers nationally.

The VMC claims to be an effort to maximize public pressure to end the war by encouraging a broad cross section of Americans to work against it. The method is a recurring moratorium (one day in October, two in November, three in December, etc.) on "business as usual" to allow concerned citizens to spend the day participating in anti-war programs in their local communities. The 15th of October effort will be directed toward building, enlarging and lengthening subsequent moratoria. The focus is not only on ending the war by any means (except escalation), but on other war related issues such as the draft, militarism, taxes, inflation, interest rates, etc. "New Politics" calls for broad based participation including mass rallies, a media campaign, and door to door canvassing and petitioning.

The VMC believes that ending the war is the most important task facing the nation. Although few presently openly defend the war, the war goes on. The administration withdrawal policy is deemed too slow. The committee points out that death and destruction in Vietnam are unabated and billions of dollars are being spent on the war while urgent domestic problems remain unattended. The discredited policies of the past which have brought about this American tragedy have not been changed. This "student call for a Vietnam Moratorium" (in abbreviated form) has been endorsed by over 500 college student government presidents and campus newspaper editors.

Academic cooperation in various parts of the nation differs. At Rutgers, for instance, President Mason Gross fully supports the moratorium as does New Jersey Senator Clifford Case. Gross called on campus organizations to observe the moratorium by holding debates, panel discussions, conferences, music, theater, and movies suitable for such a day of critical reflection. In California, although full support statements have been issued by Senator Alan Cranston (Democrat) and other leading political figures, Glenn S. Dumke, chancellor of the state college system, probably with the full support of Governor Reagan, has taken a firm anti-protest line. Dumke sent a letter to the presidents of the nineteen colleges in the system prohibiting them from endorsing the moratorium. He also ordered them to take "formal disciplinary proceedings" against professors who dismiss classes.

Dr. Andrew Cordier, new President of Columbia University, in an effort to prevent the new Columbia University senate from taking a formal position in favor of the moratorium, addressed the group, stating that he personally shared the abhorrence of all to the war. He stated that the conflict has become more and more shameful and is a war that cannot be won. Cordier hoped that the University would not, however, take a stand in a political matter. Cordier's appeal failed and the University senate, heavily populated with students and younger faculty members, voted 51 to 25 to support the national moratorium. Two weeks later the Arts and Science Faculty Senate at Harvard followed suit, taking a position for the first time in Harvard's history in a national political matter.

Among the prominent national organizations actively involved in planned protest on October 15 are several well known, politically extreme left entities, among them: Dagmar Wilson's, Women's Strike for Peace; Dave Dellinger's (and Rennie Davis'), New Mobilization Committee; and Leon Trotsky's (SWP-YSA) Student Mobe. A number of more localized and lesser known groups such as Political Action for Peace, National Association of Black Students, the Detroit Coalition Committee, the National Association of Social Workers and many, many others are participating. The bulk of the promotion and propagandizing, however, has been handled (most effectively) by the VMC. This organization incidentally describes

itself as an ad hoc group with only one objective—ending the present war through accelerated non-violent demonstrations. The New Mobe seems to have relinquished the October leadership role to Sam Brown and the VMC, and is pointing its major effort toward the mid-November, Stop the War demonstration.

As for personalities, the usual troublemakers are much in evidence for next week's protest. Counted among this group are baby doctor Benjamin Spock, grape picker Cesar Chavez, Noam Chomsky of MIT, and many others. New faces, however, prominent people regarded as loyal Americans, have instilled the day with respectability and even patriotism. Such people are Edmund Muskie, Cardinal Dearden, and Harvard's John Kenneth Galbraith.

The U. S. Senate and the House of Representatives have been vocal on the topic in recent days, and Wednesday the 15th is scheduled to be Vietnam Resolution's Day which was conceived as a way of expressing congressional encouragement for the nationwide classroom moratorium. A broad anti-war resolution for a speedy end to American involvement, taken by the VMC as an implied endorsement to moratorium demonstrations, was recently signed by 108 representatives. Additionally, nineteen senators (11 Democrats and 8 Republicans) have, in varying degrees supported planned activities of the VMC and many will speak at rallies next week. These Senators are McCarthy (D-Minn.), Goodell (R-N. Y.), Hatfield (R-Ore.), McGovern (D-S. D.), Harris (D-Okla.), Cooper (R-Ky.), Cook (R-Ky.), Saxbe (R-Ohio), Javits (R-N. Y.), Percy (R-Ill.), Case (R-N. J.), Hart (D-Mich.), Mansfield (D-Mont.), Fulbright (D-Ark.), Kennedy (D-Mass.), Hughes (D-Iowa), Muskie (D-Maine), Church (D-Idaho), and Cranston (D-Calif.).

With the exclusion of minor exceptions, such as planned anti-war activities in cooperation with the VMC, and spontaneous demonstrations that may erupt in several hot spots, new left radical activists are, this time, relatively uninvolved. Current SDS management (Mark Rudd and others) is virtually silent on October 15 activities (and the VMC disavows any connection with SDS) preferring instead to shake up Chicago with its own demonstration on behalf of the Conspiracy 8 which precedes the national VMC effort.

Most probably, SDS would rather prompt their own headlines rather than create the image of an "also ran" in someone else's act. Additionally, Negro groups (with the minor exception of the National Association of Black Students which recently broke away from the National Student Association) are conspicuously absent furthering evidence that the Negro collegian feels that separatism, even in popular national movements, is the black man's best course. Howard University will have their own anti-war protest along the pattern of the VMC, but will not cooperate in the general demonstration. Although the CPUSA, PLP, and SWP have not been reported in the press as participants for the demonstrations of the 15th, the old line communist groups naturally regard the moratorium as nationally divisive, therefore, good. Domestic communist newspapers have played up the magnitude and universality of the moratorium.

The 15th of October moratorium has also prompted protest activity in the Executive Branch as well as on the worker level of the Legislative Branch of Government. On October 15th pro-moratorium speakers will address employees of the Department of Agriculture, the Equal Employment Opportunities Commission, the Civil Rights Commission, the Office of Economic Opportunity, and the Department of Housing and Urban Development. Additionally, employees at a number of other agencies including the Department of Defense (Pentagon), General Services Administration, and the Library of Congress will pass out leaflets to fellow employees. Congressional staff members are planning a vigil on the Capitol's west front steps.

Added impetus, at least added grist for the anti-war propaganda mill has apparently been prompted by two recent administration moves. Both may well have been necessary, but have seemed to play into the hands of dissidents. First was Senator Scott's call in camera for a sixty day moratorium on criticism of administration policies on Vietnam. Senator Scott's sincere and probably purposeful request was immediately tagged as contrary to American freedom to dissent and petition. Then, unfortunately, President Nixon's recent statement that he would not be influenced by protest

demonstrations prompted anti-war advocates to label Mr. Nixon unresponsive to the national will (a highly debatable assumption in view of the many millions of Americans who continue to believe U. S. Vietnam policy realistic under the circumstances and see the remaining U. S. demand that the South Vietnamese be allowed to choose their government by free elections, regardless of the outcome, as most reasonable). The President's well-intentioned statement, designed undoubtedly to minimize demonstration impact and at the same time to "lay it on the line" for Hanoi, seems to have backfired and may swell the protest ranks. The President's troop withdrawal and pronouncements to Vietnamize the war are considered by anti-war spokesmen, tokenism and too slow. At the present rate of troop withdrawal, anti-war supporters calculate continued American involvement until 1978. The withdrawal figure pressed by the VMC is 2,500 men a day, not, naturally, to be replaced by additional troops.

In opposition to the VMC on several campuses is a momentarily feeble Young Americans for Freedom. The YAF (like SDS, presently suffering a serious philosophical split in the YAF case between traditionalists and libertarians), founded by William Buckley in 1960, is dedicated to traditional (and libertarian) conservatism and has announced its intention to seek punishing court orders in the event college classes are suspended on the 15th. Such an approach, it can be safely predicted, will have absolutely no affect on planned vigils, teach-ins, and rallies.

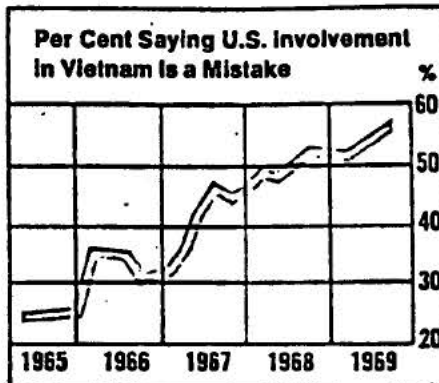
As for college campus participation, about one hundred colleges and universities planning activities of a variety of natures have been mentioned in local newspapers in the past two weeks. The VMC claims, so far, to have pledges of participation from 700 colleges and expects a total of over 1,000 before the 15th. Naturally the big schools are amply represented. Prominent in the list are such schools as the University of Michigan, University of Maryland, Harvard, Columbia, University of California at Berkeley (also seriously infected with other problems), Rutgers, Princeton, and Wisconsin, just to name a few. More surprising is the pledge of participation from some small, often religiously affiliated, exclusive women's colleges, such as Mary Baldwin (Virginia), Mercer University (Georgia), Nazareth College (Rochester, New York),

Pace, Marymount and Finch (in New York). The girls at tiny Barat College at Lake Forest, Illinois (a Catholic women's college) plan an active leafletting campaign in the Chicago area. The nature of planned activity is peaceful and most schools (high schools, too) anticipate both on and off campus demonstrations consisting of teach-ins, vigils, marches, and candlelight marches, petitioning, door to door canvassing and the like.

In Washington, included in a vast number of activities planned for the area on the 15th are VMC plans for a march through downtown and a massive rally on the monument grounds at the height of the evening rush hour (beginning at 5 p. m.) and an address by Mrs. Martin Luther King at 7 p. m. Then the demonstrators plan a candlelight procession around the White House. Senator McGovern will speak at an American University rally Wednesday morning and in the afternoon, Dr. Spock is scheduled to speak at George Washington. An afternoon march is also scheduled to Selective Service Headquarters at 1724 F Street, N. W. The Washington demonstration has the complete support of D. C. Democratic national committeeman Channing Phillips and city council vice-chairman Sterling Tucker among a number of other civic leaders. The Washington demonstration will include thousands, perhaps tens of thousands of protesters, and although billed as non-violent, the possibility of isolated incidents by and among a considerable number of people, after dark cannot be completely dismissed.

In summary, the moratorium can be expected to be highly successful. Demonstrations will be massive, in totality but not separately, for the most part non-violent, broadly supported and nationwide. Although with the element of spontaneity it is most difficult to predict, if trouble (violence) comes it will most probably occur in those places with either a recent tradition for trouble (such as Columbia, New York University and San Francisco State) or places where other serious problems promote added stress to demonstrations (such as Harvard, several University of California campuses, the cities of Chicago and Madison, Wisconsin, and several other locations).

IXON SAID "UNDER NO CIRCUMSTANCES WILL I BE AFFECTED WHATEVER" BY OPPOSITION TO THE WAR IN VIETNAM



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